

Stafford County Utilities Commission
Meeting Minutes
April 16, 2013

I. Call to order

Chairman Bill Tignor called to order the regular meeting of the Utilities Commission at the Stafford County Government Center on April 16, 2013 in the Board Chambers.

II. Roll call

The following persons were present: Joyce Arndt, David Bohmke, Paul Gohmann, John Harris and Bill Tignor. Harry Critzer, Dale Allen, Janet Spencer, and Deidre Jett were present for the Utilities Department.

III. Public Presentations

James Parker presented information about services offered by the company Falling Springs, LLC. He stated the company is a wetland and stream mitigations banking company that offers a pre-approved solution which addresses 100% of mitigation through the purchase of bank credits. They would like to present to the county options for the Rocky Pen Run Reservoir mitigation project.

Paul Waldowski of 8 Pickett Lane commented about various items in the proposed FY14 operating budget.

IV. Public Hearing

Mr. Critzer provided a summary about Stafford's water and sewer infrastructure and about critical projects that are in need of repairs and rehabilitation. Mr. Allen highlighted key projects of the FY2014-FY2023 Capital Improvement Program. Ms. Jett presented the results from the cost of service study.

Chairman, Bill Tignor opened the public hearing for statements from the public. Mr. Waldowski commented that the Courthouse area UDAs should no longer be mandatory. He stated the presentation was clear in terms of the infrastructure and that he is in favor of increasing the rates over the next three years, but that small projects should have neighborhoods incorporated in them. He also inquired why Quantico receives a water bill, while he does not.

Following the public comments, Mr. Tignor closed the public hearing.

Mr. Harris made a motion to endorse and recommend to the Board of Supervisors proposed ordinance O13-28, which would amend and readopt fees for providing public water and sewer services. Mr. Bohmke seconded the motion.

Mr. Tignor commented that the decision to increase the rates was made when a decision was made to build a new water treatment plant and a new reservoir. The increase would allow the County to keep up with proper maintenance and with water and sewer infrastructure. He stated the increase would be a wise investment.

The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

V. Approval of minutes from last meeting

The February 28, 2013 work session minutes and the March 12, 2013 minutes were approved as written.

VI. Commission Members' Comments

No comments.

VII. Director's Report

Mr. Critzer reported the following:

- PRMG will present their findings at the May 21st Board of Supervisors meeting.
- A public hearing on the proposed rate increase will be held at the June 18th Board of Supervisors meeting.
- The county will receive \$45,409 from sale of excess nitrogen and phosphorus credits through the nutrient credit exchange to other localities.

VIII. Unfinished Business

1. FY14-FY23 CIP

Mr. Critzer reported that there was no new information to report since the presentation at the March meeting, but staff is available to answer questions commission members might have about the CIP. No questions were asked.

2. FY14 Operating Budget

Ms. Jett reported that water and sewer revenue projections were lowered and staff is confident the projections would be met. Revenue projections for water and sewer availability fees are also on target for being met. The FY14 budget assumes a 9% rate increase; however, the total estimated fees we receive may need to be lowered because there could be a delay in receiving the revenue. Staff will re-evaluate this at a later date. The expected increase in revenues will be approximately 7.4%. 500 EDUs were budgeted for water and sewer. Ms. Jett also highlighted several revenue and expenditure items.

Mr. Tignor asked if utility employees receive the same cost of living adjustments, health care costs and merit increases as county employees. Ms. Jett responded that utility employees receive the same increases as county employees.

Mr. Bohmke inquired about the difference in the 9% rate increase versus the proposed 9.5% increase. Ms. Jett explained that the budget was completed prior to the 9.5% rate increase recommendation. The additional one-half percent increase would generate an additional \$135,000, but the budget would be based upon the percentage the Board of Supervisors determines.

3. Rocky Pen Run Financial Overview

Ms. Jett reported that an additional \$3.2M was spent in March. There is about \$11.6M in bond proceeds remaining and about \$37.6M in project costs. There was change in expected totals because of the following contract change orders.

- Haymes Brothers - \$72,000
- MEB - \$70,000
- URS - \$99,000

Mr. Bohmke inquired about the Rocky Pen Run WTF construction schedule. Mr. Allen responded the water treatment facility is about six months behind schedule due to the same issues with the contractor.

Mr. Tignor asked if the contract is a performance-based contract. Mr. Allen responded the contract is a lump-sum contract with a liquidated damages clause. If the contractor runs over schedule, we would expect him to make the county whole in terms of the costs.

IX. New Business

Mr. Tignor commented that pump and haul would be on the agenda for discussion at the May meeting.


Mr. Critzer informed commission members that the Virginia legislation passed a bill that allows localities to set up loan programs for residents who have failed septic systems. At the next Board of Supervisors meeting, Mr. Snellings will ask the Board to refer the matter to the Utilities Commission.

Mr. Tignor inquired about alternative septic systems. Mr. Allen provided general information about the systems.

X. Adjournment

There being no further business, Mr. Tignor adjourned the meeting.

Minutes submitted by:



Joyde Arndt,
Recording Secretary